

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-20 are pending on the application. In the Office Action dated May 17, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,215,857 ("Kasiviswanathan") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,809,114 ("Solomon"). In this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 8, and 10-20 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to the claims in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

II. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 1 Unpatentable

Amended independent claim 1 recites a supplementary service processor that may access a supplementary database to determine whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service, to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier, and to receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service. Kasiviswanathan and Solomon fail to disclose at least this element.

Kasiviswanathan is directed to a telecommunication system for enabling a calling subscriber to invoke the forwarding of a call to a voice mail system on a call-by-call basis in order to leave a message for the called subscriber without disturbing the called subscriber. As admitted by the Examiner, Kasiviswanathan fails to teach a supplementary database that may be accessed to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. Thus, Kasiviswanathan also fails to disclose actions such as receiving a call forwarding number from a supplementary service database if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service.

Solomon is directed to an anonymous interactive telephone system for connecting a caller to a subscriber without divulging the identity or telephone number of either unless voluntarily revealed. Solomon fails to disclose at least accessing a database to determine whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service

and receiving a call forwarding number from a database if the central office supports the supplementary and a user had access to a voicemail service.

Due to the fact Kasiviswanathan and Solomon fail to disclose at least, a supplementary service processor that may access a supplementary database to determine whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service, to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier, and to receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanathan and Solomon as contemplated by the Examiner necessarily cannot render independent claim 1, or any claim that depends on claim 1, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections against the claims.

III. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 11 Unpatentable

Amended independent claim 11 recites a computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts of determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on an n-character message and connecting a CPE to a voicemail service if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and a user has access to the voicemail service. As discussed above, Kasiviswanathan and Solomon fail to disclose at least these elements. For at least this reason, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanathan and Solomon as contemplated by the Examiner necessary does not render independent claim 11, or any claim that depends on claim 11, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections against the claims.

IV. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 16 Unpatentable

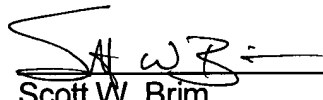
Amended independent claim 16 recites a computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts of generating a query to determine whether a central office supports a supplementary service based on whether a service code is present in a n-digit message sequence and

to determine whether the user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier and receiving a call forwarding number if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service. As discussed above, Kasiviswanathan and Solomon fail to disclose at least this element. For at least this reason, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanathan and Solomon as contemplated by the Examiner necessary does not render independent claim 16, or any claim that depends on claim 16, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections against the claims.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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